

Throughout his career, Frank DeClerq has been an advocate for the San Diego City Firefighters and their families. He earned the rank of Fire Captain in the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. As a fearless leader he has worked with the Fire Department Management, elected officials, and industry experts to advocate for the enhancement of firefighter health and safety.

Frank DeClerq believes that a firefighter's sworn duty to serve their community extends to their off duty time as well. He has consistently demonstrated this belief by supporting numerous charities such as: the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the San Diego Burn Institute, San Diego Firefighter Aid, San Diego 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, San Diego Youth Sports, and Local 145 Holiday Giving Programs for Low Income Families, among others. Frank DeClerq has not only influenced the welfare of firefighters of Local 145 as their leader, but also promoted the welfare of our residents throughout San Diego and the region.

EDUCATION IS THE ONLY ANSWER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Lee R. Johnson, a man for whom I have great, great respect, is very concerned about the type of education young people are receiving today.

Mr. Johnson spent a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army. Since leaving the U.S. Military, he has become a leader in East Tennessee.

I bring to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the wise words of Mr. Johnson.

MY LIFE FROM ZERO TO 101

(By Lee R. Johnson)

EDUCATION IS THE ONLY ANSWER

America's New National Education Mission Statement: America must educate and mentor all of our young men and women so that they are prepared to be academically and financially competitive in all walks of their lives no matter where they choose to live and work in this global society.

Globalization has brought us to the realization that the entire world is more important than ever. Globalization has forever changed the way that we should judge the education system in the United States, and there is no going back! Think, for instance, about the way that we often compare our local public school system with the same type of system in neighboring cities, counties, and states. We even compare our local system with the national average. When we judge our school system in this way, the future of our education system looks good. But if we judge our education system on a worldwide basis, we can see that our system actually deserves a failing grade. If our students are to compete successfully in a global culture and economy, our school systems will have to undergo a major overhaul. Our students (who will become our future workers, supervisors, and CEO's) must be prepared to compete—as never before—with the rest of the world. Most Americans have not yet come to realize what a problem this is now and how much more problematic this worldwide competition will become in the future.

If we fail to recognize this problem, we will never find the answer to global competition, and we will be left far behind.

To understand how other nations impact most areas of our lives, consider President Ronald Reagan's answer when he was asked about the strength of America's military. He answered that he did not determine the strength of America's military; instead, he added, that the enemies of the U.S. determine the strength of our military. The same can be said of our education system. Competitors in every corner of the world will determine what our education system must be like. Our system should be flexible and constantly updated to meet ever-changing global demands or the United States will fail to keep up.

DRASTIC CHANGE IS THE ONLY ANSWER

Education is the largest business in America today, and so education must be run as a business! Teachers, principals, school board members, school superintendents, members of state legislatures, governors, and federal government leaders who don't believe this should get out of the American education system immediately!

In the business world, a business must be operated in real time—even better five, ten, fifteen even twenty years in the future—certainly not 25 years in the past. Our school systems should be just as up-to-date! At the present time in our nation's school systems, it takes years to change a simple policy or even to add or drop a single subject. With the changes in the world today, we must find a way to be flexible enough to change twenty-five percent of our entire education system within one year and continue to make changes every year until we get our school systems back on track. If not, our country will be in serious trouble—unable to compete in a global economy.

To date, our government and our leaders in the education field have not even been able to define what a proper world-class education is. We don't even have a national education "Mission Statement"—what we expect from our children when they finish each of the four levels of training (pre-K through elementary years, middle school years, high school years, and college/university years). A "Mission Statement" is essential to our understanding of the definition of a "world-class education." I give our government and all of our so-called learning institutions an "F" for their failure to understand what the problems are in our education systems. Many people, who realize that this problem exists, would describe the situation by use of this age-old saying, "the blind leading the blind." And when the blind lead the blind, everyone goes around in circles—never getting anywhere.

If America fails to adopt this mission statement and carry through on its implementation, then our students will not be prepared to measure up to other students around the world. We cannot fail our children and grandchildren! After all, they are the most cherished treasures of our hearts and our most valuable resources. We must be "on mission" to provide these students of ours with a world-class education.

HONORING MRS. DEBORAH MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Unsung Hero in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Deborah Moore is the Associate Vice President of Community Relations at Delta Health Alliance. Mrs. Moore is assigned to the Indianola Promise Community where she provides administrative oversight and technical assistance to the community and organizations. Mrs. Moore worked one year as Project Manager IV at Delta Health Alliance before being promoted to Assistant Vice President and then to Associate Vice President.

Mrs. Moore is a retiree from the state of Mississippi where she served 27 years in community and economic development. She spent the last 12 years of her career before coming to Delta Health Alliance at Delta State University's Center for Community and Economic Development in Cleveland, MS where she served as AmeriCorps director for two programs and then as director of the Center for Community and Economic Development the last five years. In her role as director of the Center for Community and Economic Development she assisted grass-root communities by empowering individuals, strengthening relationships and developing projects and programs to strengthen communities. Moore has extensive work with proposal writing having secured grants in excess of \$15,000,000.00.

Mrs. Moore is a member of several nonprofit boards, the Mississippi Center for Nonprofits, Cleveland Youth Council and Friends of the Environment. She currently serves as chair of the board for the Delta Fresh Foods Initiative. Moore serves in an advisory capacity for the Breast Education-Early Detection Project and the School-based Asthma Management Project at Delta State University. She also serves on the advisory board of the Excel By 5 program in Cleveland, MS and is a member of the Excel By 5 Coalition in Indianola, MS.

Mrs. Moore works tirelessly in assisting: the elderly by running errands and doing other tasks they may desire; mentoring youth in diverse subject areas, so they can become an asset to society and work faithful with her husband's ministry to enhance congregants both spiritually and naturally.

Mrs. Moore is a native of Cleveland, MS. She is a graduate of Delta State University with a B.B.A. degree and a M.B.A. degree. She has a certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council (NDC) and received her PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi in Human Capital Development.

Mrs. Moore is married to Dr. Billy Moore and they are the proud parents of two daughters, A'ndrea and Alicia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Deborah Moore, an amazing Unsung Hero, for her dedication and service to mankind.

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HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Dexter Foxworth. A recognized Central